

**COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT REFORM**  
**TOM DAVIS, CHAIRMAN**



**For Immediate Release**  
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**Federal Employees Win Victory as House Passes**  
**Bill Improving Dental / Vision Insurance Options**

*Davis Praises Landmark Bill to Add Much-Desired  
Insurance Benefits to Federal Health Program*

**WASHINGTON, D.C.** – House Government Reform Chairman Tom Davis (R-VA) is pleased to announce that the House of Representatives this afternoon approved “The Federal Employee Dental and Vision Enhancement Act,” which allows federal employees and retirees to purchase supplemental insurance through the Federal Employees Health Benefits Program to cover the costs of dental or vision care.

On a unanimous voice vote, the House joined the Senate in passing S. 2657. The legislation now heads to the White House for the President’s signature.

Congressman Davis worked closely with Senator Susan Collins (R-ME), the author of the Senate bill, to address the problem cited by many federal employees – a lack of insurance coverage within the FEHBP for dental and vision care. The minimal eye and dental insurance coverage was part of the federal government’s efforts to hold overall insurance costs down – but it had left FEHBP lagging behind private sector health plans.

The legislation allows federal employees and retirees to purchase supplemental plans through the FEHBP – a solution that address employee concerns about the lack of dental / vision coverage while not affecting the overall premiums for comprehensive care.

“An overwhelming majority of private sector plans provide dental and vision coverage,” Davis said. “In addition, there has been a groundswell among federal employees and annuitants through numerous surveys and focus groups on this issue – more than any other benefit, they want better coverage for dental and vision care. That will change with the passage of this important legislation.”

“The bill now before us will establish a voluntary, supplemental program under which federal employees and annuitants may purchase dental and vision insurance as part of the FEHBP,” Davis added. “This important legislation follows the design of the current Long-Term Care Insurance Program, whose premiums are wholly employee-funded, but allows the Federal government to leverage its purchasing power to lower the cost of care in these areas.”

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